**Supplementary material**

Data and scripts for this project are available through the Open Science Framework. Stimuli cannot be provided due to copyright restrictions.

Table S1

*Information about the musical instruments used in the traditional Chinese and Hindustani classical pieces.*

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| Instrument | Description |
| Pipa | The pipa is a plucked instrument consisting of four strings and a pear-shaped wooden body. While it is still one of the most popular Chinese instruments, its origins date back to the Han Dynasty (2nd century BC) and it may have been transmitted from central Asia. |
| Erhu | The erhu is a two-string bowed instrument. The body consists of a long neck and a small hexagonal resonator box. Its origins date back to the Tang Dynasty (7th to 10th century AD) and it may have been transmitted from central Asia. |
| Yangqin | The yangqin is a hammered dulcimer consisting of a trapezoidal wooden body and 7 to 18 sets of strings over 4 to 5 bridges. It may have been modelled on the Persian santur, introduced to China in the 17th century AD from Persia. |
| Bianzhong | The bianzhong is a set of bronze chime bells, hung to a wooden frame and struck with a mallet. Its origins date back to the Zhou Dynasty (11th to 2nd century BC). |
| Sarangi | The sarangi is a North Indian short-necked bowed instrument with a rectangular body carved from a single piece of wood. Its sound is thought to best resemble the human voice. While it peaked in popularity in the 17th century AD as an accompaniment to vocal music, its popularity has since declined in favor of the harmonium and violin. |
| Shehnai | The shehnai is a North Indian double-reed woodwind instrument consisting of a wooden tubular body ending in a metal flared bell. While its origins are debated, it may have evolved from the Persian ney or from the South Indian nadaswaram. |
| Santoor | The santoor is a hammered dulcimer consisting of a trapezoidal wooden body. The number of strings and bridges is not standardized as the instrument was only recently introduced to Hindustani classical music. It originated in Kashmir as part of the Sufiana Mausiqi tradition, and may have been adapted from the Persian santur. |